

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising the steps of:
deactivating a circuit during a first time period;
enabling a portion of the circuit for a second time period;
sensing an electromagnetic signal during the second time period;
enabling the circuit for an extended time period that is greater than the second time period upon the sensing of the electromagnetic signal;
processing the electromagnetic signal during the extended time period to obtain an input code;
comparing the input code to an access code; and
providing a signal to unlock a device if the input code matches the access code.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of generating an oscillation signal and deactivating the circuit in response to the oscillation signal.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of toggling a switch to enable the circuit for the extended time period.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of operating at least one of the following in response to the signal to unlock the device: an electromechanical driver; a solenoid; a DC motor; an electromechanical relay; and, a solid-state relay.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic signal is infrared.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic signal is within a radio frequency.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of activating another portion of the circuit to compare the input code to an access code.
8. (Previously Presented) A method comprising the steps of:
periodically enabling and disabling a circuit during each of a plurality of duty cycles wherein the circuit is enabled for a time t_1 during each of the duty cycles;
receiving an input code transmitted via an electromagnetic signal;
comparing the input code to an access code;
enabling the circuit as the input code is being received for a time t_2 that is greater than said time t_1 ; and,
providing a signal to unlock a device if the input code matches the access code.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of sensing receipt of the electromagnetic signal.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the electromagnetic signal is infrared.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the electromagnetic signal is within a radio frequency.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of generating an override signal during at least a portion of the step of enabling the circuit as the input code is being received.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of toggling a switch during at least a portion of the step of enabling the circuit as the input code is being received.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of operating at least one of the following in response to the signal to unlock the device; an electromechanical driver; a solenoid; a DC motor; an electromechanical relay; and, a solid-state relay.

15. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a circuit on current drained from a battery comprising the steps of:

generating a signal to indicate detection of a device capable of providing an electromagnetic signal;

receiving an input code transmitted by the electromagnetic signal;

increasing the current drained from the battery;

comparing the input code to an access code;

providing an output to an unlock device if the input code matches the access code; and, decreasing the current drained from the battery after receiving the input code.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of increasing the current drained from the battery comprising toggling a switch and the step of decreasing the current drained from the battery comprising toggling the switch.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of generating an oscillation signal during the step of receiving the input code.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the electromagnetic signal is infrared.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the electromagnetic signal within a radio frequency.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of operating at least one of the following in response to the signal to unlock the device; an electromechanical driver; a solenoid; a DC motor; an electromechanical relay; and, a solid-state relay.

21. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of periodically enabling a processor for performing at least the step of comparing the input code to the access code.
22. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of receiving another input code from a keyboard and comparing the other input code to the access code or another access code.
24. (New) The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of receiving a signal in response to pressing a program key on the keyboard.
25. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of periodically enabling and disabling a low-battery detection circuit for measuring a battery voltage.
26. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of providing a non-zero power output to the device, providing a lower non-zero power output to the device, and transitioning from the non-zero power output to the lower non-zero power output.
27. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of writing the access code into a memory in response to a write signal received through a communication port.
28. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of writing a serial number into the memory.
29. (New) The method of claim 28 further comprising the step of transmitting the serial number through the communication port.
30. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of transmitting the access code through a communication port in response to a read signal.
31. (New) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of periodically enabling a processor for performing at least the step of comparing the input code to the access code.

32. (New) The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of receiving another input code from a keyboard and comparing the other input code to the access code or another access code.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 further comprising the step of receiving a signal in response to pressing a program key on the keyboard.

34. (New) The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of periodically enabling and disabling a low-battery detection circuit for measuring a battery voltage.

35. (New) The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of providing a non-zero power output to the device, providing a lower non-zero power output to the device, and transitioning from the non-zero power output to the lower non-zero power output.

36. (New) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of writing the access code into a memory in response to a write signal received through a communication port.

37. (New) The method of claim 36 further comprising the step of writing a serial number into the memory.

38. (New) The method of claim 37 further comprising the step of transmitting the serial number through the communication port.

39. (New) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of transmitting the access code through a communication port in response to a read signal.

40. (New) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of periodically enabling a processor for performing the step of comparing the input code to the access code.

41. (New) The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of receiving another input code from a keyboard and comparing the other input code to the access code or another access code.

42. (New) The method of claim 41 further comprising the step of receiving a signal in response to pressing a program key on the keyboard.

43. (New) The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of periodically enabling and disabling a low-battery detection circuit for measuring a battery voltage.

44. (New) The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of providing a non-zero power output to the unlock device, providing a lower non-zero power output to the unlock device, and transitioning from the non-zero power output to the lower non-zero power output.

45. (New) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of writing the access code into a memory in response to a write signal received through a communication port.

46. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising the step of writing a serial number into the memory.

47. (New) The method of claim 46 further comprising the step of transmitting the serial number through the communication port.

48. (New) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of transmitting the access code through a communication port in response to a read signal.